STATEMENT BY PRESIDENT.

Re. Adjournment Motion.

PRESIDENT : Order, order. I have received notice of an adjournment motion from Mr. K. A. Mathew.

"I request that the business of the House be adjourned to discuss a definite matter of urgent public importance, namely, the Dewan's Statement about the declaration of H. H. The Maharaja of Cochin regarding the unification of Kerala."

This motion is not permissible as it relates to a matter involving the relations of this Government with the British Government and the Cochin Government and therefore it is not an apt subject for adjournment. It is therefore ruled out.

STATEMENT BY THE DEWAN-PRESIDENT RE : THE RESIGNATION TENDERED BY THE CHIEF ENGINEER.

PRESIDENT : I have to announce to this House that I have received a letter of resignation from the Chief Engineer. The Government have accepted the resignation. I may refer firstly to the constitutional position. The Chief Engineer under a mistaken idea that he was in duty bound to tender his resignation by virtue of the token cut did so, and he also advanced other reasons for his resignation. He pointed out that he had been trying to do his utmost for the State but that he had not received adequate co-operation from his subordinates and the public, that he had received requests for special favours and enhanced rates to contractors which he was not able to comply with. I have the names of the contractors and the names of those who made such requests with me. The Chief Engineer after listening to the remarks made in this House and realising what is taking place outside felt his position to be such that he cannot continue in office here without subjecting himself to undeserved attacks and indignity. This Government informed the Chief Engineer that the constitutional position was clear. Travancore is not under a system of responsible Government now, and even if there had been a responsible Government, the Chief Engineer is not a Minister but only a member of the permanent service and he is not removable by an adverse vote of this House. But having regard to what he said from his own personal point of view, and having been personally satisfied that a person like him, who is undoubtedly one of the most eminent Engineers in India and who has come here and tried to do his best, has been handicapped right through by reason of the non-cooperation and subterranean intrigues both of his subordinates and contractors and has not received the support that he is entitled to receive from the public at large or this House, this Government felt that it could not, if he felt as strongly on the matter as he did, ask him to continue. Reference may be made especially to the speeches that were made yesterday. There were about 35 speeches made yesterday. In

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[President.]

none of those speeches, except perhaps Mr. Chazhikkattu Joseph's and one other was there a single remark in recognition of the work that the Chief Engineer had done. On the other hand, without considering the handicaps from which he was suffering, a large number of indiscriminate and unfair aspersions were levelled against him and he felt that he could not do justice to his duty in such an atmosphere. This Government concurred with this view and they have therefore accepted his resignation. There is no person in the department who can in view to the magnitude and importance of the tasks ahead be thought of to take his place. The result will be that for some months all big schemes and many small schemes will suffer a certain amount of delay. The harbour works, the hydro-electric works, the Perunchani scheme and various other works will undoubtedly be jeopardised and new Engineers may have to be entertained therefor, but I do not think that the Government are, even on account of these considerations—important as they are—entitled to force an honourable servantof this Government to stay on when he considers that he cannot do so consistently with his self—respect. Therefore they have accepted his resignation.

MR. CHAZHIKKATTU JOSEPH: സർ, എനിക്കു് ഒരു വാക്കു പറയുവാനുണ്ടു്. ചീഫ് എഞ്ചിനീയരുടെ മേൽ ഇന്നലെ ഒരു കട്ട്മോഷൻ ഇവിടെ കൊണ്ടുവന്നു പാസ്സാക്കി. ശരിതന്നെ.

RAJYASEVANIRATA S. CHATTANATHA KARAYALAR (*Deputy President*): Is it permissible for any member to make a statement?

PRESIDENT: I want to know what he is going to say.

MR. CHAZHIKKATTU JOSEPH: ചീഫ് എഞ്ചിനീയർ രാജിവച്ചു എന്ന സംഗതി ഈ സഭയുടെ അദ്ധ്യക്ഷൻ അവർകൾ ഇവിടെ അറിയിച്ചതു സംബന്ധിച്ചു് എനിക്കു രണ്ടു വാക്കു പറയുവാനുണ്ടു.

PRESIDENT: This is a mere announcement of an offer of resignation by a servant of the Government which the Government have accepted. There is an end of the matter.

MR. K. A. MOHAMED: Is there any objection in the House knowing the names of the contractors and the persons who recommended them?

PRESIDENT: Only when the occasion arises. Government have got a list of those names. For obvious reasons it will not be in the public interests to publish those names unless the occasion arises. If some of those names are given out now it will mean that some members of the legislature will have practically no chance in the next election (Laughter). Obviously the Government cannot put them in such a position without a more definite and formal enquiry. But I may add one remark. None of the contractors who

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have engineered the agitation which has culminated in the resignation will fail to realise that their action has been noticed by Government. Evidently there has been a concerted move on the part of the contractors to ensure that rates which were not accepted by the Chief Engineer would henceforward be accepted. Apparently a great deal of work has been done behind the scenes in that hope but that hope will not be realised.

MR. CHAZHIKKATTU JOSEPH: ചീഫ് എഞ്ചിനീയരുടെ സർവീസ് ഈ രാജ്യത്തേക്ക് വളരെ അത്യാവശ്യമാണ്. അതുകൊണ്ട് അദ്ദേഹം നൽകിയ രാജി ഗവണ്മെൻറ് സ്വീകരിക്കാതെ തിരികെ ജോലിയിൽ പ്രവേശിക്കുന്നതിന് അദ്ദേഹത്തെ ക്ഷണിക്കേണ്ടതാണ്.

PRESIDENT: Order, order. No further discussion is possible. Mr. K. K. Chellappan Pillai has written a letter which reads as follows:—

"I forward herewith a phonocom I received yesterday from the President, Municipal Workers' Union, Quilon, announcing the scavengers' strike. I request you to make an announcement concerning the action Government have proposed or propose to take on the same." It is a matter between the municipality and the scavengers and when the occasion arises the Government will intervene.

PRESIDENT: Order, order. I am asking the permission of the House to take up Taxes on Income immediately after Agriculture It is because Mr. Gunamony has had an accident and to suit his convenience he would prefer to have this demand taken up now, and then go away. I hope the honourable House will have no objection.

The House signified its assent.

ELECTION OF MEMBERS TO THE VILLAGE UPLIFT COMMITTEE.

As already stated by me the House will have to elect three members to the Committee of Village Uplift. The election will take place tomorrow after the business of the House is over under the Chairmanship of the Deputy President, or one of the members of the panel of Chairmen. The system of voting by ballot will be adopted as usual.

VOTING OF DEMANDS FOR GRANTS—(*contd*).

DEMAND XX—AGRICULTURE INCLUDING DEBT-HEADS LOANS—(*contd.*)

MR. T. C. KOCHUNNI PILLAI (*Assistant Director of Agriculture in Charge*): I have already explained the policy of the department in regard to the establishment of manure depots in the State. There are now 30 departmental depots and 32 agency depots functioning

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